

Mr. Candler said he hoped he was not out of order in making a few remarks as to the report and accounts. He considered the report a very important and necessary place of information to be laid before the shareholders. It was the duty of the Directors to give them full and detailed information as to the working of the mine and the status of the Company. What had they in that report? A few items of account, the usual routine of directors' reports, and nothing else. He had heard a great deal from outside sources about the Company; it was said that they were only working tin instead of gold. He would like some information from the Board—let them corroborate the rumours if true, or deny them if false.

Mr. McCulloch fully concurred in the question, and supported Mr. Candler's request for fuller information than appeared in the report.

Mr. Candler added that he knew as a matter of fact that there were shareholders in London who had nothing whatever to guide them as to the mine, and that they were in the hands of the Directors to give them the fullest details they possessed.

The Chairman replied that Mr. Candler had first asked for other indefinite information, which could not well be given even on the spot. Mr. Becker had only been at the mine a couple of months altogether, and they knew that a man could do very little in that time, especially in the jungle. Otherwise he had no objection to the shareholders seeing Mr. Becker's reports in the most public manner.

Mr. Wotton added that until Mr. Candler had asked and been refused, he could not complain of not getting information.

Mr. Chater remarked that so far as he knew, the Company had never received any definite information from any one of their managers except one. It was not a report, but a private communication that Mr. Becker had sent to the Chairman for the private information of the Directors. Mr. Becker had worked very hard during the short time he had been at the mine to give the Company some sort of an idea of the value of the property. The mill had not worked satisfactorily, and had come to grief, so that it needed setting up again. The ore that had been crushed was being assayed, but the assay was only approximate, as the laboratory was not yet put up, and there were no means of bringing the assay to a fine point. As far as he (the speaker) was concerned he should be very glad, if the Chairman did not mind, that the letter from Mr. Becker be read, so that the shareholders might know what information the Board possessed.

The Secretary then read the communication, which was as follows:—

"I feel sure, as a cautious geologist may venture to say, that the gold mines of Pahang have a great and brilliant future in store, and though my comparisons of Pahang with other districts are only drawn from well-confirmed reports and the evidences of specimens of those others, I consider it safe to expect a general verdict that Pahang stands but second, if not first, of the known resources of rich gold-bearing quartz. It is not a case of a little surface blow, like that of large masses of solid rock, permeated with auriferous veins. Neither is it a case of plain-sitting into uniform and rocky lodes, yielding steady percentages of free gold. It is going to take clever metallurgists to treat Pahang gold successfully, and skilful mining to get it, because the deposits are large and irregular, and the metal is much combined with base sulphurets, but I repeat it ought to pay handsomely. We at Pahang shall not attempt complicated treatment at present, but endeavour to make the richest possible concentrates to export for sale. We have a big hole to commence work in as soon as labour is engaged and the stamps are ready to run. I want to take months more to get my trial crushing and stamping finished, and then we can talk business. Now as to the broader value of Pahang—I am sure that several reefs lie in other parts of the area. I have not had time to look at these reefs, so that even if crushings gave unfavourable results for some time, yet any average miner would still have confidence to go on prospecting for better pay-rock. I shall want, roughly, \$10,000 to finish my 3 months' assays, but sincerely trust to produce an asset in the shape of bullion and concentrates by that time. Then, though we may run a little mill to pay a small way, it will take more money in order to put proper machinery into motion for big work—perhaps \$100,000. So much for my views as to the mine at present. My next month's work on the spot will give me firmer data to work on, and you shall have the benefit of them."

Mr. Candler said that it seemed they had got hold of a property which might turn out to be valuable, and there should be a full understanding between the shareholders and the Board as to how it should be dealt with. As the Chairman had said, the opinions in the report were only approximate, and only a certain value should be placed upon them; but whatever they were, they ought to have been placed before the shareholders. There were shareholders in the Treaty Ports and in London who were anxious to know if the mine could be placed on a proper footing, and it was desirable that the Directors should let them know the opinions or desires of the manager. It was done at all other mines, as the mining journals showed.

The Chairman explained that the reports and details had been open to inspection for a fortnight.

Mr. Candler protested that no one was aware of that fact. They all knew that the directors had created a very unfavourable opinion amongst the shareholders—there was no earthly use in sending such a report out. Besides, it put the shareholders to a great inconvenience.

Mr. Chater repudiated the inference that the report was published after Mr. Becker's communication had been received. No opinion was received from the manager until long after the report was published. It was dated the 11th May, and had to come from Singapore that was the only report the directors had received from Mr. Becker expressing any opinion about the mine—leaving as far as he knew, and he supposed he knew what the rest of the Board did.

Mr. Candler expressed regret at not being able to join issue with Mr. Chater, but had not a letter been sent by Mr. Becker to the Board in which he stated that tracing down the old Chinese workings he got assays of over 2 oz or from the mill more than 34 oz? That should have been brought before the shareholders.

Mr. Chater replied that Mr. Becker had not given the Board any other information, except by private note.

Mr. Candler contended that the question was not what was the opinion of the Directors, with regard to the reports from the manager—the Directors had simply to place the reports before the shareholders, and let them form their own opinions.

Mr. Candler insisted that all the assays and the letter accompanying them ought to be made known to the shareholders.

The Chairman replied that the assays had been actually printed in the report, and the reason they were withdrawn was because Mr. Becker said they were not definite, and they did not want to put in anything that was not definite, as they might be blamed for exaggerating or misstating the shareholders.

The Secretary then read the following communication:—

"I have with me the returns and the nature of the auriferous quartz. The total quantity of quartz crushed is about 80 tons, the rock being obtained, as most easily got, from the rubbish-heaps of the Chinese mine on which the tramway runs from the back of the mill, and from the tunnel of the cross-lode at the end of the tramway. The most friable white quartz, with some sulphurets of iron and arsenic and oxide of iron. The gold obtained from amalgam of plates amounts to 202, the ridiculously small proportion of 1 dwat or 12 grains per ton. Black sand roughly estimated at about eight tons were collected, which assay to dwat of gold (bullion) per ton, representing a saving of only 10 per cent. of the original ore, in the shape of but slightly enriched material, hardly to be termed concentrates. The tailings appear by assay to be considerably poorer than the original quartz, but it must be remembered that the sampling of this ore of the screen pulp was not systematic, the trial being made more for the purpose of testing the working of the stamps than the ore. It must be taken into consideration that the amalgam copper plates are in bad condition from neglect, and have not had time to get into working order. Firstly, such poor surface quartz is quite unfit for milling; secondly, that the gold contained even in the richer ore of the same quality of quartz is not to be extracted by simple plate amalgams, and thirdly, that such rough methods as blanket tables are not adapted for the concentration of the auriferous sulphurets. In qualification of the last statement I must admit that our blanket tables are not by any means perfect, either in proportion or grade, and that the mill hands have not yet learnt how to handle the blankets and their charges of concentrates. The trial simply of the richer quartz and shale lode stuff treated by pan amalgam, giving conclusive results. Ten cwt. of this was hand crushed, and ground in the pan, amalgamated for many hours with a plentiful addition of mercury. A copious formation of amalgam took place, which proved to be of arsenic, yielding but little gold. The same sample, on hand washing, yielded a result equal to 7 dwat per ton of very coarse gold, and a further quantity of concentrates, assaying very rich, representing about 7 dwat, total yield 14 dwat per ton, the assay being 2 oz. Whilst, therefore, this ore is undoubtedly rich and valuable, there is no conclusion possible but that it is highly refractory, and will need most careful and scientific treatment. The quartz sample in assay No. 3 is of a superior quality, and the evidence of such ore in ray-streaks through the lode is alone a most promising indication, warranting deep exploration. A small chert-vein sample gave a good show, on washing, of free gold, and I am now preparing other samples from the same vein. Reminding you that we are at present but in the first half of our mining operations, and cautioning you to pay more attention to deductions than the vague conclusions which the figures of my assay may suggest, and promising you more samples by an early mail, I am, yours, &c."

Mr. Candler criticised one or two details, adding that if he had not asked for the documents that had been read he did not believe that the shareholders would have heard anything about them. The Chairman assured the meeting that the last letter was originally printed along with the report, but withdrawn and a notice written that the details could be obtained privately.

Mr. W. Legge asked whether the Company intended to rely on the production of tin or of gold? Tin was up to 1600 a short time ago, but it was down to 200 now.

Mr. Candler wished to draw attention to a peculiar feature of the report. Here again he had their manager paying a flying visit of a few hours to the tin lodes, and yet a whole paragraph was devoted to the tin prospects in the report, whilst the gold, to mine for which the Company was originally started, was hardly referred to. He also again complained of the improper reticence of the Board.

Mr. Wotton asked, with some heat, if Mr. Candler meant to bring that as a charge against the Board or only as an irregularity? Hardly a single shareholder had asked to see the documents he referred to, although they were at liberty to do so. Mr. Candler kept speaking about his "investments" in the Company—well, he might be going to invest, but at present the mine was rather a speculation.

Mr. Candler disclaimed any intention of making a charge against the Board.

Mr. Wotton continued that the shareholders had received an answer as to why the details were not brought before them. The directors at first intended to announce in the report that any information required by shareholders could be obtained at the office, but at the last moment that announcement was withdrawn. He did not think Mr. Candler had anything to complain about—he had asked for information he could have got before. If he wanted he could have all letters and answers to read to his heart's content.

Mr. Candler retorted that it was not the duty of the shareholders to apply for information; it was the place of the directors to supply it.

Mr. Wotton said there was no information to be given to the shareholders.

Mr. Candler replied that there was.

Mr. Wotton: Not unless there is some sort of report on which the directors can rely with some amount of confidence. There is no information yet on which we can rely with certainty.

Mr. Candler said that with other mines the rule was to lay weekly reports before the shareholders.

Mr. Legge pressed for an answer to his question as to whether the Company was going to work gold or tin.

The Chairman: We shall work both. We have had very uphill work, and we have had people whom we have to and very unreliable. At least during the last eighteen months we have been unfortunate in that respect, for we have seldom seen their faces.

Mr. Legge asked if the Company had the requisite capital to work both tin and gold?

The Chairman replied that the capital required for the tin was already paid out. As to gold, they saw Mr. Becker expected to produce bullion after the expenditure of \$10,000. He hoped it would be at least outlay than 20s. to the dwat. He sympathized with Mr. Candler in his remarks about reports, it certainly was the rule to have them regularly in other companies.

Mr. Gillies thought that extracts from the manager's letters should be given to the shareholders—he did not think they could ask for more. It could be sent round by circular.

Mr. Chater said that when he was Chairman and they were expecting great results from Mr. Becker, he proposed, and it was carried and placed on record, that as soon as any reports came from the mine of any gold being turned out, any assayed outside the office.

Mr. Candler said he was afraid that, considering the number of mines there were in the world, there would only be a slight chance of getting additional capital invested. It would be working on different lines to any other company.

Mr. Legge then moved that the report be adopted.

Mr. Candler interrupted to propose that when anything important was known a meeting of shareholders should be called.

The Chairman said that he saw no objection to that.

The list of balance sheet were then passed unanimously.

Mr. Talbot moved the confirmation of Mr. Wotton as a director.

Mr. Apath seconded, and it was agreed to.

Mr. Barros moved the appointment of Mr. G. S. Coxon and Mr. F. Hender on as auditors for the ensuing year.

Mr. Holmes seconded, and it was passed.

Mr. Chater moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, and expressed a hope that the trouble he had given that gentleman would be taken in the spirit in which it was intended, that was for the general interest of the shareholders.

Mr. McCulloch seconded, and the vote having been accorded, the proceedings terminated.

OUR MACAO LETTER.

MACAO, May 25th, 1888.

The twenty-two Chinese criminals who were apprehended by our Police a month since and were charged with piracy, robbery and murder committed in Chinese territory, were rendered yesterday to the Canton Government. At 3 p.m. a detachment of Police, with fixed bayonets, and commanded by an Ensign, conveyed the prisoners as far as the Barra wharf, where they were shipped in a steam launch, and as expected, the launch, being followed by another gunboat. It is supposed that the whole gang will be summarily dealt with by the Canton authorities, and that after suffering the *Lin-chi* torture, every man will lose his head.

At five o'clock on the same day the Police captured eight more robbers in a boat, and found in their possession revolvers and other arms. As these prisoners are supposed to belong to the previous gang, it is probable that they will also be rendered to the Chinese authorities.

Opinions vary in this Colony as to the advisability of the Portuguese Government extraditing Chinese prisoners. Some think that as extradition is a matter which is regulated in Portugal and as the Portuguese Government should refrain from holding over native criminals for degradation in Canton. But as we have signed a Treaty wherein the extradition clause is patent, *vela sua sans dire* that we must adhere to our obligation.

CHINA SHIPPERS' MUTUAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY. (LIMITED).

The sixth annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the above company was held at the Cannon-street Hotel, London, on the 10th April, for the purpose of receiving the directors' report and accounts for the year 1887, and the transaction of other business.

The Secretary (Mr. J. C. Averillo) having read the circular convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: That, gentlemen, is a most important announcement of the meeting. You will all know that our esteemed chairman, Mr. Albert Denon, is away in the East, and that is the reason I have the honour of occupying the chair on this occasion. I may at the same time remark that Mr. Strachan, another of our directors, is also in the East—in Japan—and both of these gentlemen, though not directly representing the company in an official capacity, are doing very good service in our interest, and I am quite sure you will be glad to hear that they are. (Hear, hear.) You have all had the report and accounts in your hands for some time, and I have therefore been thoroughly understanding them. But as it comes within the province of my duty to go through them, I may, in doing so, remark at the outset that it is very fortunate that I am able to put such an encouraging report before you, and to state that steady and satisfactory progress has been made by the company since our last meeting a year ago. (Hear, hear.) Although this is really our sixth annual meeting, practically it can only be regarded as our fourth, inasmuch as the first was merely a statutory meeting, which we were obliged to call, but we then had nothing to show. At the second we certainly did publish the accounts, but we had no meetings at the East, but, of course, we did not then know what the financial results would be. Therefore, for practical purposes our first meeting may be considered to be that of 1885, when we placed before you the results of our working, and declared a dividend of 10s. per share, or 5 per cent. per annum. In 1886 we declared a dividend of 12s. per share, or 6 per cent. per annum, and this year we propose to pay a dividend of 19s. 6d. per share, or 7½ per cent. per annum, and this is a very good result, and we have made progress. (Applause.) In addition to that you will observe by the accounts to-day that the depreciation fund stands at £1,460, and to this, as you will see stated in the preamble of the report, we propose to add £1,954; therefore, in addition to paying increasing dividends we have accumulated £33,000 against depreciation, and about £1,000 for insurance, as well as paid off an item of £7,400 for preliminary expenses, incurred on the formation of the company, which amounts to £38,000 we have earned, and this is a very good result, and we have made progress. (Applause.) In addition to that you will observe by the accounts, we will just go through the figures, and if you do not clearly understand them, perhaps I can enlighten you. You will see the first item on the debit side is the capital. Last year it was £80,918; this year it is £103,908, the increase being accounted for by a further call of £23,990, which resulted in an addition of £23,990. Then there is the amount of bills payable. You will see in the account that we have £24,000, but against that you will observe £4,000, which, last year, represented £1,000, while this year the figures are £4,000, so that taking the two together, our indebtedness in this respect is not exactly the same, say £108,000. If you look on the other side you will see that the amount of purchase on account of steamers has increased. We have bought a new steamer, the *Myrmec*, which is, without exception, one of the finest in the China trade. You all know that she brought home the new *Cent*, and came in a week before any other steamer, making a magnificent passage, and she is certainly now looked upon as the finest steamer in the trade. Taking these amounts you will see that although we have increased our capital £23,990 we have increased the other side of the account £13,000 so that our accounts are, in fact, £20,990 better than they were this time last year. (Applause.) I do not think there is anything else to refer to in these items, but we can look at the matter in another light. We can take our financial position at the present time.

We have five practically new steamers—magnificent boats, fit for any trade in the world, and all kept in the most efficient working order out of the current expenses—and those vessels as you will see, stand in our books at £244,211, and certainly to us as a company they are worth that amount, considering the dividends that have been paid and the amount of money for depreciation, coupled with the fact that they are all new steamers. Then we have uncalculated capital to the amount of £50,000, and on the credit side of the account, cash in hand £6,000, and cash on deposit £10,000, which makes £66,000, or a total credit of £310,000. Against this we have our liabilities: bills payable and sundry creditors £18,000, which leaves us with a surplus of £202,000. This is, I think, an extremely good position, a position which is, perhaps, better illustrated by the very favourable terms on which we can finance this amount, and as long as we can do this we are even in prospect of being able to do even better in the future—we shall not want any more capital, unless it is decided to increase the number of steamers. I referred more fully to our financial position because a very influential shipping paper has criticised our accounts, and they seem in some curious way to have misunderstood them. (Hear, hear.) I would like to put before you our position. These accounts are dated December 31st, and this is April 16th, and, therefore, we have rather more than three months working which does not appear, and I am glad to be able to tell you that the results for the three months are very satisfactory. We have three completed voyages since December 31st, all showing very fair profits indeed, and four of our five steamers have left Liverpool for the East with extremely good freights—(hear, hear)—and our position now, on April 16, is very considerably better than it was at the same date last year, when we had the pleasure of meeting you here. (Applause.) Certainly one can readily understand that we have no conception what the rates of freight are going to be in the future, and you will all know that we have had considerable difficulties in managing this line during the past year. To begin with, one of the leading shipping companies in the China trade thought fit to reduce the rate of freight homeward from the £10 to 20s. per ton, as soon as we heard that one of our steamers was coming in, and immediately after the steamer left they put the rate up again. This is a system most unsatisfactory to merchants. In addition to this the same company, also to a certain extent boycotted this line by refusing to give the ordinary rebate or bonus to the merchants shipping by our line. This action on the part of this company forced our hands considerably, and compelled us—very reluctantly—to bring into the China trade, a considerable number of outside steamers. But this we had to do to oblige our shippers, and, in fact, to give them an opportunity of shipping by us. If they could not get a rebate when they shipped in the other lines we had to provide, tonnage for them so that they should have no difficulty in that respect, and I am told that our action in this matter has worked very satisfactorily indeed. We have been enabled to run this large line—really a ten day line, as we have had a steamer leaving Liverpool every ten days—without any cost to the shareholders in the Mutual Line, and the steamers have left up to date always full, and have always obtained current rates of freight. (Hear, hear.) I can see no reason why this special order of things should not continue, as it certainly tends to establish the Mutual as a very important factor in the China carrying, and I therefore feel that the line has been a great gain on the whole to the shareholders.

The Chairman then proposed: "That a dividend at the rate of 19s. 6d. per share, being 7½ per cent. on the called up capital, be payable free of income-tax, on and after April 27th, 1888." Mr. H. Stewart seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. D. McLean moved: "That the retiring directors, Mr. David Reid and J. A. Maitland, be and are hereby re-elected directors of the company."

Mr. Robert Anderson seconded the proposition, which was also agreed to.

Mr. W. Anderson proposed, and Mr. Melhuish seconded: "That Messrs. Baker and Rutherford and Mr. Jamieson Elles be elected as auditors to the company for the ensuing year."

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then said: That concludes the formal part of this meeting, but we shall be glad to hear the views of any of those present. As you know, we directors look upon this company quite as a merchant's company, and we expect your cooperation in everything, because we are perfectly confident that you have in your power to make or mar any shipping company in the China trade. Any remark or suggestion will therefore be listened to with the greatest respect by this board.

No questions being put,

Mr. W. Patterson said: It seems to me, gentlemen, that the meeting is well satisfied with the statement made by the deputy chairman, and therefore I think I am only giving expression to the general opinion amongst us in stating that the affairs of the company have been extremely well managed from first to last. (Hear, hear.) I beg to propose that you have in your power to make or mar any shipping company in the China trade. Any remark or suggestion will therefore be listened to with the greatest respect by this board.

The motion was seconded, and carried unanimously, and the chairman having returned thanks on behalf of himself and brother directors the proceedings terminated.

THE RECENT EMBEUTE IN NORTH BORNEO.

The *British North Borneo Herald* says:—As a report has been circulated that the late disturbance in Mempakol was caused by the establishment of a Salt Monopoly and an increase in the Poll Tax on the part of the Government, and as it has also been stated that the Company are taking the natives to pay dividends to shareholders, we felt it incumbent upon us to assert most emphatically that both these reports have no foundation in fact. The Padas Muruts are confirmed head-hunters, and have ever been the terror of the Coast. Twice they have destroyed the villages of Mempakol and Mempakol, on one occasion decapitating all the Chinese traders at Mempakol, where the graves of the murdered men can still be seen. It is well known that heads have been taken by them in Labuan, and often have they decapitated the European graves in the English cemetery, that Government being powerless to administer the chastisement which has now been meted out to a portion of the tribes by the Company. The Poll Tax has not been increased, and no Salt Monopoly has been established on the West Coast. The sole reason of the disaffection is the refusal of the Muruts to become a law-abiding people. The 'singdangs' of the late outbreak have been previously punished and imprisoned for murder by the Company, one of them having three times taken the oath of allegiance and three times broken the same. With regard to the second charge, the Company, from being a Company, must be prepared for adverse criticism, and we quite expect them to be charged with sucking the life blood of the people to pay dividends to shareholders. To show how unjust these charges are, we submit the following facts for the consideration of our readers. The natives of Iava pay the Government one-fifth of the produce

from the land and one day's gratuitous labour in the uruguan work of seven days, or from 6 to 10 per head of the population. The natives of India also pay a heavy land tax and on the gross revenue from 5s. to 12s. per head. The natives of Fiji are assessed nearly 4s. per head in direct taxation, in produce; and, including a heavy import duty on all goods, pay over 6s. per head. The natives of Ceylon pay 8s. per head, and in addition 6 days' gratuitous labour a year towards the upkeep of roads. The latter is now commuted by a money payment, and yields a revenue of £83,000 a year. It is unnecessary to cite any other examples, but we say without fear of contradiction that there is no country in the world, possessing any semblance of a Government, where the people are so lightly taxed as the natives of British North Borneo. Last year some 150,000 people contributed about \$8,000 to the revenue, or, say, six cents a head on the population, which sum was all paid away on salaries to native Chiefs and Collectors, so that, as yet, the native inhabitants practically contribute nothing towards the revenue. When it is considered that they form nine-tenths of the inhabitants of the colony, and that it is in their interest that such a large police force and expensive administration has to be kept up, it is only reasonable that they should bear a fair share of the expense incurred for their benefit. It is not a question of money but the best method to stop intertribal wars, and to replace head-taking by the introduction of habits of thrift and industry amongst the people.

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To-day's Advertisements.

VICTORIA LODGE, No. 1026.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above named Lodge will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, THIS EVENING, at 8.30, on MONDAY, the 27th instant, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Hongkong, 25th May, 1888. [523]

FOR SHANGHAI. THE Steamship "NINGPO," Captain F. Schulz, will be despatched for the above Port, on MONDAY, the 27th instant, at 4 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to SIEMSEN & Co. Hongkong, 25th May, 1888. [526]

TO LET. HOUSE AT THE PEAK.

FIVE ROOMS, GRASS TENNIS COURT. Furnished or Unfurnished.

For particulars apply to the Undersigned, G. H. GRACE. Hongkong, 25th May, 1888. [527]

AUCTION SALE OF HORSES.

NOTICE is hereby given that on the 24th of June proximo there will be sold at LAC STREET (before the Pagoda), SAIGON, by Public Auction, FIFTY-FIVE HORSES of Arabian breed.

H. L. VERLEYE, Consul for France. Consulat de France, Hongkong, 25th May, 1888. [528]

For Sale.

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[PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.]

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Mr. W. Brewer, The "Hongkong Telegraph" Office, Messrs. Quetch & Co., Swatow, Messrs. Hedge & Co., Fochow, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited, Shanghai, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited, Yokohama, Hongkong, 24th September, 1886.

NOTIFICATIONS.

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Hua Chang, 8th May, 1888.

BIRTH.

On the morning of the 24th inst., at No. 8, Pedler's Hill, the wife of E. J. OHADAYA, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 11th April, at St. James's Enfield Highway, by the Rev. Silvester Davies, Vicar, CHARLES DAVID BORTOMLEY, of Hongkong, eldest son of the late A. D. Bortomley, of Chesham, Herts, to EMILY MARY, second daughter of Frederick T. Cater, of Durants, Enfield Highway, Middlesex.

Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1888.

GRAMS.

(Reader.)

FLOODS IN ILLINOIS.

LONDON, May 23rd.
150,000 acres, mostly wheat, have been flooded in Illinois. Terrible distress prevails in consequence.

FRANCE AND GERMANY.

Passports are required by all Frenchmen entering Alsace, bearing the *visé* of the German Ambassador.

(From the Straits Times.)

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND THE PREMIER.

LONDON, May 15th.

In the House of Lords, Lord Wolseley, prefacing his remarks by stating that he had no intention of attacking the present Ministers personally, said he must uphold the views he expressed last month at the banquet to Sir John Pender, and he now maintained that the military resources of the country are inadequate to guarantee the safety even of London, and that the Army is now twenty thousand men below what it was in 1860; he had often been tempted to resign, but had refrained in view of the inability of such a course, but would now leave the decision in the hands of Lord Salisbury.

Lord Salisbury accepted Lord Wolseley's disclaimer in regard to attacking Her Majesty's Ministers, but said that appeared to him to be the only object when officers appealed to the uninformed public against their superiors.

(From the Courrier de Saigon.)

GENERAL BOULANGER.

PARIS, May 15th.

General Boulanger's journey to the department of Nord has been accomplished without any incident.

THE TRANSPORT "COLOMBO."

May 17th.

The *Comorin* left Marseilles yesterday to substitute the transport *Colombo*, taking up her passengers at Suez.

MONSIEUR CONSTANS.

Official papers notify that M. Constans will remain Governor-General of Cochinchina.

MR. H. G. THOMSETT.

We have been favoured with the following copy of a telegram received by His Excellency the Governor:

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES TO THE GOVERNOR OF HONGKONG.

LONDON, May 23rd.

It gives me much pleasure to inform you that Her Majesty approves Thomsett, C.M.G.

KNUTSFORD.

THE "ARRATOON APCAR" IN COLLISION.

Messrs. David Sassoon, Sons & Co. received telegraphic information yesterday from their Agents at Singapore to the effect that the steamer *Arratoon Apar* had arrived there on the previous day, and would probably be detained for two months in consequence of having been in collision. No cargo had been found to be damaged up to the time of sending the telegram.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

At Singapore on the 16th inst. Captain Carr relieved Capt. Royle in command of H.M.S. *Orian*.

It is announced that Mr. W. H. Treacher, late Governor of British North Borneo, has received an appointment in the Perak Government service.

The Superintendent of the P. & O. S. N. Co. courteously informs us that the steamship *Bokhara*, with the next English mail, left Singapore on the 23rd inst., at 6 p.m., for this port.

A SEVERE thunderstorm broke over Amoy on the evening of the 21st inst., doing considerable damage to the growing crops. During the storm the lightning entered a native house in the town, killing one woman and damaging the furniture considerably.

Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co., agents for the Canadian-Pacific Line, inform us that the steamship *Parthia* left Shanghai on the 24th inst., at 11 p.m., for this port.

A REGULAR meeting of Victoria Lodge, No. 1026, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

THE paternal authorities of the Holy City have issued a decree forbidding the sale of all fruits, both ripe and unripe, with the exception of oranges and yellow bananas. This, says the *Independent*, has been adopted as a preventive measure against the cholera epidemic which has been raging at Singapore and Saigon. The decree reads exactly like one the Lilliputians or the Hhnhns would have enacted under analogous circumstances.

WE note that at Lloyd's Captains' Rooms, on the 5th April, 133 fully paid £10 shares in the Angier Line (Limited) were sold by public auction. The property of the company consists of the following steamers:—*Angier*, *Angier Head*, *Japanese*, *St. Asaph*, and *Supplichi*. They were all purchased at £5 10s. per share. Four £100 fully paid shares in the steel screw-steamer *Chelydra*, 1,571 tons net register, built in 1885, also managed by Messrs. Angier Brothers, sold for £37 10s. per share.

SPRING Poetry as "Set Up" by an Apprentice:—Once more the time for maple sugar dawns; once more the poets and the robins sing; once more the editor's wastebasket yawns to catch the poet's ode to gentle spring. "Soon," June's sweet flowers will claim the poet's care, then "fields of waving grain" a change will bring; then "autumn's fruit" and "winter's frosty air" will give reprieve from madrigals on spring. But from the poetess who sings of death the tired waste-basket never gets a rest; she tunes her lyre at every parting breath to waft some spirit up among the blest.

MR. J. C. HOWBROOK, a clerk in the public works, who was summoned some ten days ago for having an unmuzzled dangerous dog on his premises which had bitten a little boy in the back, and which he had promised to hand over to the police for destruction, was this morning again called up to Wyndham Street for disobedience of Magisterial orders and for an infraction of duty bordering on contempt of Court. On the case coming on for hearing Inspector Swanston was able to say the dog had been in the meantime handed over and destroyed, whereupon the defendant was discharged.

SAVES THE *L. & C. Express* of April 20th:—In the Tea Market, China, of the lowest grades has further receded in value from previous unprecedented low quotations, affording fresh proof that the common rubbish finds no favour with consumers. Of good and fine quality of China tea there has seldom been so small a selection, though the stock of tea in hand is large for the far end of the season. In Indian tea the advance in the lower grades is so marked that it must draw attention to other growths. The medium and fine grades are about as cheap as at any period of this season. As regards Ceylon tea, though late supplies here and there show improved quality, the imports this season to date are decidedly inferior to those of the previous, not so much to any deterioration in the leaf, but to the process in manufacturing it. Java meets with brisk competition at the range of moderate prices.

THE recent disclosures in connection with the kidnapping case heard at the Magistracy at the commencement of this month, have led the Hongkong correspondent of the *Macao Independent* to largely build on the extensive abuses which, he says, are tolerated in this Colony. In true Chinese style of logic, the correspondent launches into rabid assertions that Great Britain tolerates and promotes the slave-trade when it suits her convenience to do so, that the coolie-trade was stopped in Macao only to be re-established in Hongkong, and that Portugal cannot place any reliance on the promises and pledges of the British Government. It has invariably been our custom to avoid discussing a point with coolies, and as we are perfectly aware of the identity of the Anglophobic scribbler of the *Independent*, we will certainly give him the benefit of our silence. In our opinion, the Macao emigration traffic and what is going on in Hongkong differ *pro rata*. In modern Gomeria abuses were the rule and laws the exception, while in this Colony just the reverse takes place.

THERE has been no little discussion lately both in China and in the United Kingdom regarding the deterioration of Chinese tea, and not long ago the Canton Chamber of Commerce drew up a report for the information of the Chinese "authorities," as to the causes of the recent falling off in the export of tea from this country, owing to the serious competition from Assam and from Ceylon. In that paper the Chamber of Commerce of the oldest tea port in China expressed an opinion that it was now impossible for China to regain her old position in the London market owing to various causes in which quality had, no doubt, a good deal to answer for. As matters are going now, said the Chamber, "the extinction of the China tea trade is only a matter of time." In view of such a possibility, which has been apprehended by commercial men now for the last two or three years, it would be interesting to know whether the Chamber of Commerce in Canton or the Chamber here in Hongkong made any effort to stop the cargo of fifty decocted tea which was recovered from the *Glenfruin* two years ago after she had been at the bottom of Hongkong harbour for over three weeks. There was about one thousand tons of this tea sold by auction here and, if we mistake not, afterwards dried and shipped out of the country as minkings. The Canton Chamber points out one curious thing about Canton and Foochow tea, which is that the former loses seriously in weight during the homeward voyage, while the Foochow tea gains under the same conditions.

WE hope to be able to deal editorially in our next issue with the ridiculous farce which was played with such great success at the meeting of the Panjoni Mining Co., held yesterday afternoon.

SOAKING at a Unionist meeting at Battle on the 13th April, Sir John Gorst, Under-Secretary of State for India, said that when the Conservative Government came into power they found this country on the brink of war with Russia. The relations between Russia and England were now of the most friendly description, while the frontier of India had been strengthened by railways, fortifications, roads, and works, to make the invasion of that country from the North-West as nearly as possible an impossibility. The Empire of China had been treated with the most neighbourly cordiality.

FOUR Italians and one English sailor, forming part of the crew of the Italian barque *Fratellanza*, arrived at Singapore on the 15th inst. in the Dutch steamer *Kongree* from Olebleh, and reported the loss of the *Fratellanza* on the 24th March last, south-west of Bali, on a voyage from Sourabaya to England. After being 35 days in a boat they were picked up by the ship *Moer*, from Calcutta to Australia, and landed on the *Amatra* coast. They were then taken on board a Dutch man-of-war and forwarded to Olebleh in Achene. The fate of the Captain, mate, and the rest of the crew is unknown.

OUR Amoy correspondent writes under yesterday's date:—News has just arrived from Tung-wa of a daring act of piracy, resulting in a loss of ten lives. It appears that one of the native passenger boats which ply between Amoy and Tung-wa, left Amoy on the 21st with a full complement of 80 passengers and cargo, and when nearing her destination, at a place called Tung-wa Tan, she was attacked by pirates, who fired a volley, killing six men. The passengers in their hurry to escape rushed to one side of the junk which caused her to capsize, and four of the passengers were drowned. When the junk capsized the pirates made good their escape, and so far none of them have been captured.

THE illegitimate and lucrative business of opium smuggling apparently goes on apace; only the other day we reported that 120 taels had been seized in Hongkong, and the week before last the amount of contraband of this nature totalled 3,500 taels, which, together with that seized during the last four months, makes the collective sum of taels 4,500. During the last six months there have been intercepted in Hongkong on its passage from Canton, Kowloon and other places, no less than 15,000 taels. While all this contraband business is going on in this harbour the Canton Custom House complains of Hongkong smuggling great quantities of the drug into the City of Rams; and partly in support of such statement, though not wholly so, we heard two days ago that no less than 75 chests, containing three thousand balls, had been seized by the Salt *Lehis* in the Canton River, but whether it emanated from the atop houses of this city or had been brought up the China Sea in junks is a question which has yet to be decided.

THREE Chinese were charged at the Police Court yesterday by Ng Akai, a barber, with carrying deadly weapons and assaulting him on the 23rd inst. Ng said his barber's shop was at the back of the Hongkong Club, and about ten days' ago the first defendant came and asked for the loan of a dollar. On being refused the accommodation, defendant went away and began spreading a report that the barber had been talking ill of him. On the 23rd inst. at 9 p.m. complainant went to a house in Sai Ying Street to see a friend who had just arrived from Canton, when the three accused came up, armed with choppers, threw him on the ground and beat him with their fists and also with the backs of the choppers. They then dragged him to the kitchen where he became insensible, and then the cook called the police. Witness did not know the second and third defendants. His friend, whom he went to visit, was called Chang A-yau, and had no employment; he was not at home when witness got to the house; he had been in Hongkong two or three days. Mr. Wodehouse remanded the case until Saturday, bail being allowed in one surety of \$10 each.

HARRY FARNELL—a very far distant relation, we believe, of the "Uncrowned King of Ireland"—limbed too much freewater on Wednesday night, with the result that while Chun Doss, police constable No. 675, was perambulating the Praya about 9.30, he found Harry lying in the mud as drunk as the proverbial hatter. Chun Doss is a kind-hearted bobby, so he proceeded to place the inebriated tar—Farnell—on the steamship *Victoria*—into a chair, with the intention of providing him with a night's free quarters 'till sober. The fiery soul of the distant relative of the Irish Liberator spurned the hospitality of the British Government, and he immediately commenced to carry the war into the enemy's country by landing the mission of the law a straight left-hander on the *gs. fronts*, following up this attack by tearing the sacred uniform, and doing damage to the tune of three or four dollars. Eventually the belligerent sailor man was overpowered—another brutal injustice to Ireland—and safely provided for until yesterday morning, when that genial "beak" Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, wanted some explanation why Mr. Farnell forgot himself and the honored name he bears so far to get drunk and disorderly in the public streets and to assault a constable in the lawful execution of his duty. "No defence," said the ingenious patriot. "Fined \$3 for being drunk and \$3 for damaging the constable's uniform," responded his Worship. "After vainly burning round his trousers' pockets for the five Mexican dollars demanded by a grasping Government," Mr. Farnell gloomily observed that his unfortunate circumstances left him no option but to avail himself of the hateful three weeks' hospitality, free board and lodging in General Gordon's select refuge for the destitute, which the Magistrate had thoughtfully added as a rider to his sentence. And then he "went in."

THE Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer *Victory*, from Liverpool, left Singapore on the afternoon of the 23rd inst. for this port, and is due on the 29th.

SAVES THE *Amoy Gazette* of the 22nd inst.:—We regret to learn that Captain Blumenberg of the steamship *Chiang Hye Teng* died yesterday in the Chinese new Hospital, and that a Malay seaman also died this morning. The *Chiang Hye Teng* left her mooring this morning and proceeded to the outer harbour.

By kind permission of Colonel Anderson and the officers of the 2nd Northamptonshire Regiment, the Regimental Band will play in the Public Gardens, on Sunday, the 27th instant, from 9 till 10 p.m. The following will be the programme:—

It was a case in an American court some little time back. A patch-right suit was brought before Judge Nelson. Mr. William H. Steward was counsel on one side. In summing up he occupied a whole day. The counsel on the other side made a long speech, and the judge charged the jury. After the jury had been absent about two hours, they came into court, and the foreman said, "Your honour, the jury would like to ask a question." "You can proceed." "Well, your honour, we should like to know what this suit is about."—Hongkong juries are great in their own particular line, but they can't beat this.

A WOMAN was apprehended by the Inspector of Nuisances a few days ago for creating a nuisance in the Chinese quarter by boiling sugar bags and thus carrying on a noxious trade. Mr. Wodehouse, after hearing the Inspector and the somewhat feminine offender tell their stories, remanded the case in order to subpoena the Crown and hear what it had to say about the matter, but this morning—appointed for the rehearing—the Crown did not put in an appearance, possibly from being tired, and the noxious manipulator—all ready on the stand—was discharged.

ON the arrival at Liverpool, on the 15th April, of the British and African Company's steamer *Calabar*, an armed party of the Coastguard boarded the vessel, and placed under martial arrest Sub-Lieutenant Saunders, of the British navy. Mr. Saunders, it appears, was a sub-lieutenant on board Her Majesty's ship *Goshawk*, now serving on the West Coast of Africa, and in consequence applied several times to be invalided home, but this not being complied with he sent in his resignation. This not being accepted Mr. Saunders left his ship. He was loudly cheered by the passengers and crew of the *Calabar* as he was being escorted away.

H.M.S. *Porpoise* arrived here this afternoon. She anchored in the Roads about noon, with torpedo-boats Nos. 35 and 36, which she had towed out near by. It is exactly two months since she left England, but she was delayed by bad weather in the Bay of Biscay. The upper part of her forecast was lost in bad weather off Ceylon. Since then she has had a fair passage, feeling nothing of the "typhoon" which was announced from Manila some days ago. The *Porpoise* is a fast, lightly armed craft, her speed—17½ knots—making her practically a torpedo-catcher. The torpedo-boats alongside have a speed of 22 knots. The *Porpoise* will remain here about a fortnight, after which she will go north to join the China squadron.

WONG HING, aged 50, the master of a junk, was charged at the Magistracy yesterday by Captain Tomlinson of the steamer *Yangtze*, with anchoring his junk in the Southern fairway of the harbour on the 24th inst. Complainant said that early in the morning he wanted to get to the P. and O. wharf, when he found the defendant's junk at anchor right in the middle of the fairway in consequence of which, while backing and filling his steamer to clear the junk, he ran into a sampan and smashed it, for which he had to pay ten dollars to the owner as compensation. P.C. Nevins stated that at 6.15 a.m. he saw defendant's junk at anchor in the place indicated between the Harbour Office and the Canton wharf, while the steamer was right across the channel with her bows into the Praya. Defendant, in answer to his Worship, said he was thrown into the fairway by the current which was strong. Mr. Wodehouse imposed a fine of \$15 with the addition of \$10 to repay the steamer's expenses. Defendant preferred the alternative of twenty-one days in gaol.

THE appearance of the harbour yesterday was faintly indicative of the yearly national festival which is celebrated throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire with more or less enthusiasm. The fleet being away North, the man-of-war anchorage was thinly represented by that old catfish, the *Victor Emanuel*, and the gunboat *Linnet*, both of which dressed ship in the usual gala style. The Chilean cruiser *Atala*, the Spanish gunboat *Manila*, a Chinese gunboat, and the Portuguese gun vessel *Rio Lima* had all their flags flying, and the Messageries Maritimes' outgoing steamer, the *Douglas*, the *Namoa*, lying alongside the wharf, half a dozen other steamers and about an equal number of sailing ships were quite gay with bunting. A holiday was rigorously observed by the local Banks and Insurance Companies, but very few of the shops and other places of business closed their doors. At noon a royal salute was fired by the *Victor Emanuel*, which was taken up by the port battery and the Chilean cruiser. At 5 p.m. the usual parade of the troops of the Garrison and the Volunteers was to be held on the Parade and Cricket Grounds; but owing to the inclemency of the weather, rain falling in torrents throughout the afternoon, it had to be given up. A ball was given in the evening by His Excellency the Governor and Lady De Vaux at Government House, which was numerously attended, and dancing was kept up with considerable spirit until an early hour this morning.

THE latest Chinese rendition case in which a man named Ng Kwai is in custody for taking the life of a Mandarin's servant, on March 23rd 1886, who was, with his master, a passenger on board a junk in Chinese waters, and which was last heard on the 19th inst. has again been adjourned until Monday next.

WE are informed that the fourth weekly Silver Spoon competition of the Hongkong Rifle Association will take place to-morrow, Saturday afternoon, at 4.45, and that there will be a similar competition every week, weather permitting, until further notice. Members are requested not to commence the competition until one or more of the committee arrive on the ground to take the scores.

THE Hamburg correspondent of the *L. & C. Express* reports that "the iron screw steamer *Fidelio*, formerly belonging to the well-known firm of A. J. Hertz and Sons, of Hamburg, has been sold to the steamship company of Swatow at Hamburg, whose boats are trading on the Chinese coast. The *Fidelio* is only four years old, is of 853 net-register tons, and is a first-rate vessel."

FROM the telegram in another column, received by His Excellency the Governor from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, it will be seen that Captain H. G. Thomsett's services to his country for the long period of 48 years have been recognised by the bestowal of a C.M.G. ship. This is the distinction (?) which a Melbourne druggist, sent home in connection with the Jubilee Exhibition, refused with scorn and contempt. We know a man who keeps a gin-shop in George Street, Sydney, who is a C.M.G. Mr. Wodehouse is a Companion of this distinguished Order, and so is Mr. Justice Russell. We hope these gentlemen value this honor (?) at its proper worth.

AN Austrian correspondent writes to the *L. & C. Express*:—The Austro-Hungarian Lloyd's has signed a new contract with the Government, according to which they are obliged to run three steamers per year from Trieste to Bombay and homewards, and twelve steamers from Trieste to Hong Kong and homewards, and also twelve steamers from Colombo to Calcutta in correspondence with the steamers going to Hong Kong. The steamers bound for Bombay are to call at Port Said, Suez and Aden; those for Hong Kong at Suez, Aden, Colombo, and Singapore; those for Calcutta are to call at Madras. All those steamers which are to be run between Trieste and Bombay or Hongkong are to be at least 2,300 tons register, while the steamers between Colombo and Calcutta must be of 1,500 tons. The larger steamers are to be run at 11 knots; the Government is subsidising the Lloyd's in order to have a direct line between Austro-Hungary (Trieste and Fiume) and Asiatic ports, and the export of Austrian goods, transported by the Lloyd's steamers, rose during the last ten years from 4,036 tons to 17,174 tons, while the number of passengers rose from 44 to 473 persons.

TWENTY-TWO high-bladders, boarding-house runners, harbour-thieves, or whatever may be their special means of earning a living, were ranged before the Police magistracy this morning for boarding the French mail steamer *Yangtze* on the 24th inst. before she had cast anchor or made fast to her buoy. P. C. Nevins—who stood in the witness box as the complainant declared that as the steamer passed through the anchorage he saw from the Police launch a great number of sampan men clambering up the steamer's side, which some of them continued doing while the vessel was endeavouring to reach her buoy. The steamer had her boat out trying to make a rope fast to the buoy, but the tide being too strong, she swung past it and had to let go her anchor to recover herself. After swinging round the anchor was picked up and another attempt made to get hold of the buoy, which was successful. Nevins then went on board and asked the Captain's permission to arrest the defaulters, some of whom he found on the upper deck and some in the 'tween decks, in the third class quarters, in store rooms covered up with mattresses and blankets, in water closets and in bath rooms, all with the object of evading notice from the police who were on their track. The culprit defended their proceedings by stating that the steamer was at anchor and her accommodation ladders lowered down. Mr. Sercombe-Smith fined the prisoners \$10, or in default, fourteen days in gaol, but the fines were paid in all except three cases.

Two strange stories illustrative of the enterprise and barefacedness with the Chinese *procureurs* and procuresses work have just reached us. On the 18th instant the Danish steamer *Freja* was finishing loading at Haiphong, and was almost ready to start, when the Customs launch came alongside. The officials surprised Captain Lund by stating that a number of Annamite girls were on board having been beguiled by Chinese. A search was made, and no less than seventeen were discovered stowed away in the bunkers and similar places. They were taken ashore, where one stated that there were some more girls on board. The officers of the Tribunal then visited the *Freja*, and commanded Captain Lund to find the girls, or have his ship detained. Lund knew nothing of any girls, and a general search was at once made, ending in the discovery of the girls in a store-room, with two of their kidnappers in charge of them. The men at once leapt overboard, but were arrested, as was also a Chinese fireman who was suspected of conniving at their secretion. It is supposed that the girls were being taken into the interior of China to swell the ranks of the victims there. But the daring of these creatures was even more glaringly exemplified in our own harbour, only a few weeks ago. The Russian transport *Monrovia* was passing through, conveying emigrants from Odessa to Vladivostok. The sampan men actually tried to buy the female children on board, offering as much as \$50 in some cases. The police visited the ship, but the late-moors' pity. Here indeed, would have been deserving individuals for our Acting Chief Justice to gratify his predilection for the "triangles" upon.

By the arrival, on the 22nd inst. of Mr. P. Nolasco da Silva, Interpreter to the Portuguese Minister at Tientsin, it is surmised that the text of the long looked for Treaty has reached the Holy City.

A GERMAN banker, travelling by rail in a first-class carriage toward Vienna, had as a fellow-traveller at one of the intermediate stations an old gentleman, who entered into conversation and proved very pleasant. The banker got out before his companion, and before he did so asked the latter how far he was going. The gentleman replied, to Vienna. "I have a daughter very well married there," said the banker. "I should like to give a note of introduction to her." "I have also a daughter very well married there," said the other. "Would it be too great a liberty to ask the name?" "My daughter," the gentleman answered, "is married to the Emperor of Austria." It was the old King of Bavaria.

THE following shops were to-day charged by the Inspector of Weights and Measures with defrauding the public by means of short weights or defective balances. No. 80 Praya West, 6 per cent out; 287 Queen's Road West, 3 per cent out; 303 Queen's Road West, 3 per cent; 152 same road, 4 per cent; and 129 First Street, 24 per cent out. The first defendant in answer to Mr. Sercombe-Smith said "I did not know," the 2nd made the same reply; the 3rd did not know "anything about it," the 4th innocent "had not any false weights," and anyhow, he "bought and sold with the same," the 5th thought it might be a little wrong but did not know. His Worship fined the 4th defaulter \$30 and the others \$25 each.

It is not often that a steamer which has stranded and has broken in two pieces, right amidships, has been entirely and thoroughly repaired in such a manner as to make her as good a sea boat, if not better, than was the case previous to the disaster. The initial part of the story, we think, is worth a brief recapitulation. On the morning of Friday, the 23rd of September last year, the iron screw-steamer *Lennox*, of 2,051 tons gross register, sailed from Liverpool for Singapore, via the Suez Canal, with a general cargo, consisting of machinery and fine goods. Soon after starting a dense fog settled over the river, and the vessel ran ashore off Seaforth. Immediately on hearing of the disaster lighters were sent to the scene of the calamity with a view of discharging some of her cargo in order that she might refloat. As the tide fell, however, the vessel became very much strained, and some few hours after the disaster she rent asunder. The vessel was then handed over to the Liverpool Salvage Association, the salvage operations being entrusted to Captains Chisholm, Stark, and Young. They immediately took measures so as to get well on with the work before the bad weather came. The boilers were taken out, and were floated on to the Waterloo beach, and subsequently towed into the Sandon Dock, which is a piece of work very rarely attempted. After discharging some of the cargo from "forward" she was temporarily patched up, and towed across the river by two tugs and safely beached. Subsequently she was placed in the Langton, and thence taken to the Sandon Dock, Liverpool. The floating of the after half of the steamer was not so easily accomplished, and was attended in the first attempts by a slight accident, but this was speedily rectified. It happened that while being docked, a heavy sea was running at the time, and she struck the pierhead and started a bulthead, but it was fortunately secured. Ultimately the second half along with the first was placed in the Sandon Graving Dock. When the two halves were placed in the graving dock Messrs. H. and C. Crayson undertook to effect the necessary repairs in ten weeks, and in that time she was taken out of the graving and placed in the wet dock. Notwithstanding the various vicissitudes through which the *Lennox* has passed, she sailed out of Liverpool the other day for Glasgow, and no doubt her future career will be watched with much interest.

THE PANJONI MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The second ordinary half-yearly meeting of this Company was held yesterday afternoon in the Hongkong Hotel. The Chairman, Mr. W. G. Brodie, presided, and among those present were the Hon. C. P. Chanter, Messrs. D. Gilles, E. L. Woodin, and W. Wotton (directors), the Hon. P. Ryrie, Messrs. J. Y. Vernon, T. C. Chandler, R. Lyall, G. Murray, Bain, D. McCulloch, P. J. Barker, A. M. Anson, W. Legge, H. Kuhlmann, F. J. Rutter, T. E. Davies, E. B. Jorey, J. S. Legge, R. K. Leigh, H. Crawford, A. G. Stokes and A. O'D. Gordin (Secretary).

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman stated that, as the report and balance sheet had been before them for some time past, he should have little to add, except in explanation of one or two details in the accounts. The Company had had to contend with many difficulties, which were not easily overcome. When it was expected that the mine would be in a fair way of yielding substantial returns, fresh disappointments were experienced on the part of the engineering staff, members of which were constantly leaving and going home. Owing to this the works were seriously behind time. As he had been desired to give the shareholders some information as to the present state of the Company he had pleasure in stating that during the term ending 31st March, 1888, the wages and salaries had amounted to \$15,439.54, made up as follows:—Furniture stores and medicines \$577, launch stores \$607, repairs and alterations to launch in Singapore \$3,707, travelling and carriage of material \$1,549, sundries \$2,035, royalties to Sultan of Selangor \$2,000, sundries \$45, the total expenditure being \$35,739. While the Company had not had, as fixed deposit in the Bank, \$70,000, \$1,643 in cash, opium to be accounted for \$2,766, advance for tin industry \$5,393, remittance on the road to Pahang \$6,000. The balance of current account was \$4,643, and there was other items reducible to cash, though the total up to \$90,000. The Company was now in a thoroughly reliable position to carry out the undertaking they had in hand. He would ask the meeting to take the report and accounts as read, and would be happy to answer any questions that might be put.

